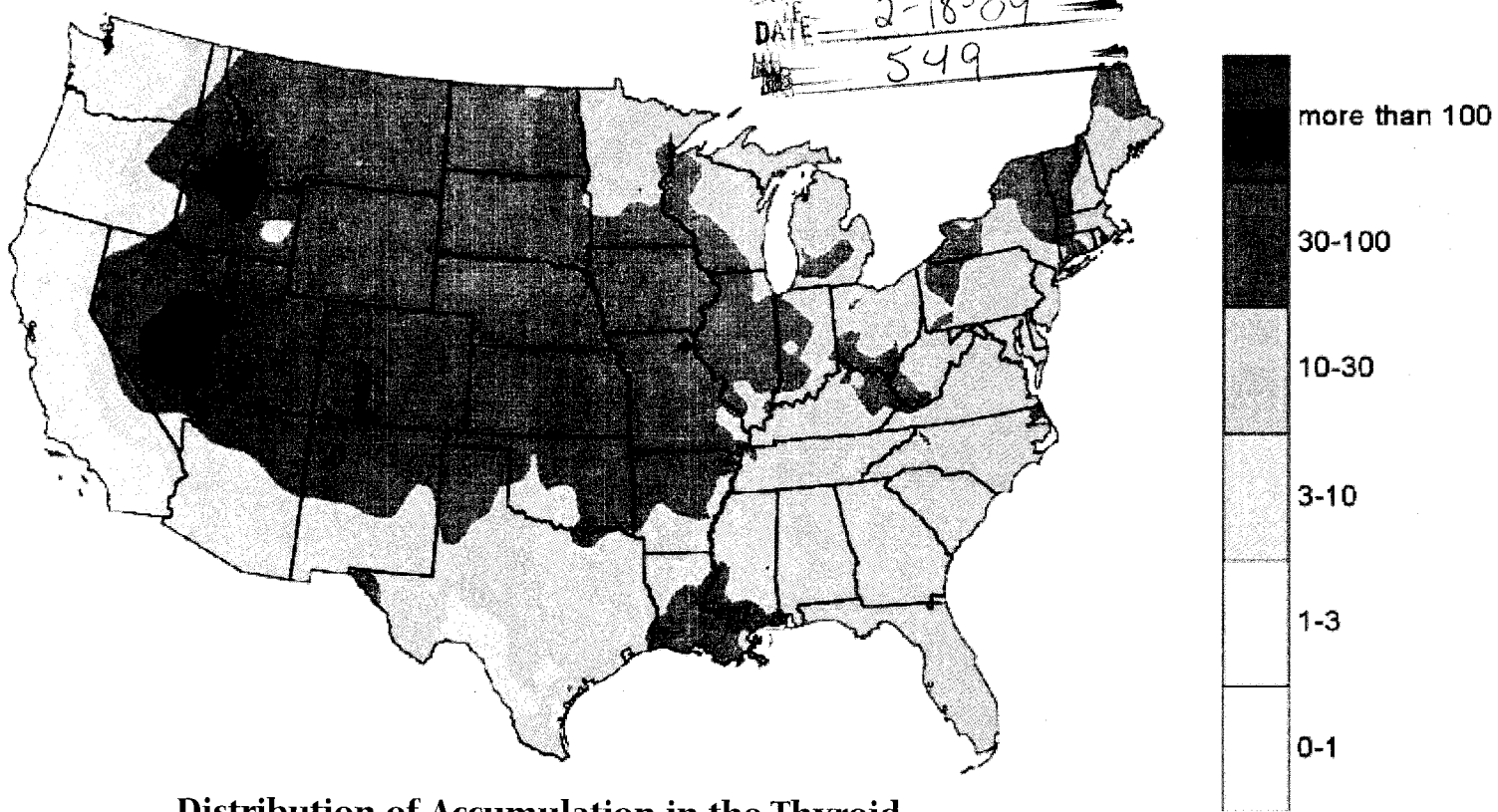


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### Distribution of Accumulation in the Thyroid of Radioactive Iodine from Nuclear Fallout

Units of scale: mGy

built 200 Minuteman **missile silos** (sites for launching missiles) in an area stretching from Augusta to Ryegate. Each contained a **warhead** (explosive charge) equal to 71 Hiroshima-sized bombs. Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls became the Minuteman missile control center. Federal money—and military contractors and employees—poured in, turning Great Falls into a Cold War boomtown.

FIGURE 20.14: As part of the Cold War, the United States conducted above-ground tests of nuclear bombs. The wind spread the radioactive material released during these tests. Part of that radioactive material concentrated in the thyroid glands of children. Because of this, people living in the darkest red areas on this map had a higher-than-average chance of getting thyroid cancer later in life. The color scale refers to units of mGy, a measure of absorbed radiation.

### The Vietnam War: Bloody Battles, Bitter Controversy

In 1955 civil war broke out in Vietnam, in Southeast Asia. Once again, communist countries helped one side, and the United States and its allies helped the other. The Vietnam War (1955–75) quickly exploded into a complicated, bitter conflict. In 1965 the United States began sending combat troops into Southeast Asia. Approximately 36,000 Montanans ultimately served during the Vietnam War, and 268 Montanans died in the war.

Many Montanans signed up to serve their country. But there were also people who did not think Montana's young men should die in someone else's civil war. They organized antiwar protests on college campuses and in Washington, D.C. Montanans joined in these protests. Some organized rallies and protest marches at university campuses in Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings. More than 300 people attended a rally in Lewistown.

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